

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 04170 170854Z

20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/057 W

----- 089916

P R 160658Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 619

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4170

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MY

SUBJ: SABAH OPPOSITION PARTY FORMED

REF: KL 4070

1. SUMMARY: OPPOSITION PARTY "BERJAYA" WAS OFFICIALLY REGISTERED JUL 12 WITH DATUK HARRIS SALLEH, FORMER STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER, AS PRESIDENT; DATUK GHANI GILONG, FEDERAL TRANSPORT AND WORKS MINISTER, AS VICE PRESIDENT; AND DATUK PETER MOJUNTIN, STATE ASSISTANT DEVELOPMENT MINISTER, AS TREASURER. LINEUP ALSO INCLUDES OTHER LUMINARIES FROM UNITED SABAH NATIONAL ORGANIZATION(USNO), PARTY OF CHIEF MINISTER TUN MUSTAPHA. BERJAYA PROMISES TO CLEAN UP STATE ADMINISTRATION AND WILL CONTEST IN ALL CONSTITUENCIES IN FORTH COMING STATE ELECTIONS, POSSIBLY IN LATE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUALA 04170 170854Z

AUG OR SEPT. MUSTAPHA, WHO IS BELIEVED TO HAVE

BEEN IN LONDON DURING PAST FEW DAYS, REPORTEDLY WILL RETURN TO SABAH IN NEXT DAY OR SO. END SUMMARY.

2. SABAH OPPOSITION PARTY -- BERSATU RAKYAT JELATA SABAH (SABAH COMMON PEOPLE'S UNION) OR BERJAYA -- WAS OFFICIALLY REGISTERED JUL 12 WITH FOLLOWING AS PARTY LEADERS: PRESIDENT -- DATUK HARRIS SALLEH; VICE PRESIDENTS -- DATUK GHANI GILONG, DATUK YEH PAO TSU, FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM TAWAU, AND HAJI AMPONG PUYON, FORMER USNO YOUTH VICE PRESIDENT; SECRETARY-GENERAL -- HAJI MOHAMED NOOR MANSOR WHO WAS DISMISSED FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE IN 1973 BY TUN MUSTAPHA (SEE KL A-135, 8/2/73); ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL -- JOSEPH KITINGAN, A KOTA KINABALU LAWYER; TREASURER -- DATUK PETER MOJUNTIN; SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERS -- DATUK SALLEH SULONG, WHO RESIGNED AS STATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER ON JUN 14, DATUK SUFFIAN KOROH, FORMER STATE ASSISTANT MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, JAMES ONGKILI, HISTORY PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA, AND SEVERAL STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS. NEW BERJAYA PARTY IS AMALGAMATION OF BOTH MALAY AND KADAZAN OPPOSITION TO MUSTAPHA AND EMBRACES FACTIONS THAT WERE REPORTEDLY ESTABLISHING SEPARATE PARTIES PER REFTTEL.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS JUL 16, BERJAYA IS PRINCIPALLY AIMED AT OVERTURNING MUSTAPHA WHO WAS ACCUSED OF GROSS MISMANAGEMENT OF STATE ADMINISTRATION. IN PRESS STATEMENT JUL 15, DATUK HARRIS SAID BERJAYA FAVORS ESTABLISHMENT OF ROYAL COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO "MISMANAGEMENT AND DICTATORIAL POLICY" OF TUN MUSTAPHA, INDISCRIMINATE SPENDING THAT HAS BANKRUPTED THE STATE, AND THE DECLINE OF THE IMPARTIAL CIVIL SERVICE. HARRIS CRITICIZED MUSTAPHA'S PURCHASE OF TWO BOEING 707'S AND OTHER EXECUTIVE JET ACFT, AND ALSO SAID BERJAYA WANTS DEMOCRATIC AND OPEN POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM FOR SABAH, THEREFORE IT WILL CONTEST ALL 48 STATE ASSEMBLY SEATS IN NEXT ELECTIONS. HARRIS CONTINUED THAT BERJAYA LEADERS HAVE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH NATIONAL FRONT IN KUALA LUMPUR, BUT HEDGED ON WHETHER BERJAYA WILL REPLACE USNO IN THE NATIONAL FRONT. IN SEPARATE STATEMENT, DATUK GHANI GILONG SAID HE WILL CONTINUE AS FEDERAL TRANSPORT AND

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUALA 04170 170854Z

WORKS MINISTER AT PRIME MINISTER'S PLEASURE ALTHOUGH HE IS NO LONGER A MEMBER OF USNO.

4. ACCORDING TO AN AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMAT, MUSTAPHA HAS BEEN IN LONDON FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS BUT AFTERNOON PAPERS JUL 16 REPORT THAT MUSTAPHA IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO SABAH LATE TODAY OR TOMORROW.

IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, PRESS JUL 14

ANNOUNCED THAT NEW CHIEF OF POLICE IN SABAH WILL BE YUSOF KHAN, NOW POLICE CHIEF IN PENANG; HE WILL REPLACE YUSOF SHAH WHO, ACCORDING TO AN EMBASSY SOURCE, WAS FRIENDLY AND SUBSERVIENT TO MUSTAPHA. THUS FAR THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF CIVIL DISTURBANCES OR DEMONSTRATIONS IN SABAH AND REACTIONS FROM MUSTAPHA CAMP HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO STATEMENT ISSUED BY CABINET IN KOTA KINABALU EARLIER TODAY DEPLORING "SLANDERS" ON MUSTAPHA AND STATE GOVT. CABINET STATEMENT SAID HARRIS, SALLEH SULONG AND OTHERS SHARED IN "COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY" OF CABINET WHEN THEY WERE MINISTERS, THEREFORE THEY SHOULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR MISMANAGEMENT ALSO. DIPLOMATIC SOURCE TOLD US CABINET STATEMENT ALSO MENTIONED "AN INDEPENDENT SABAH," A REFERENCE DELETED IN PRESS ACCOUNTS HERE.

5. COMMENT: CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT FROM BERJAYA LINEUP IS DATUK HAJI DZULKIFLI HAMID, FEDERAL DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER, WHO WAS REPORTED EARLIER AS LEADING ANTI-MUSTAPHA POLITICAL CAMPAIGN (REFTEL). MOST OF THE NEW BERJAYA LEADERS HAVE BEEN CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH MUSTAPHA AT ONE TIME OR OTHER, BUT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PROMISING YOUNGER MEN WHO MAY BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE MORE ENLIGHTENED LEADERSHIP, INCLUDING MOJUNTIN, JOSEPH KITINGAN AND JAMES ONGKILI. BERJAYA IS ALSO SAID TO HAVE STRONG BACKING OF SABAH CHIEF OF STATE, TUN MOHD. FUAD (DONALD STEPHENS) WHICH GIVES PARTY A SOMEWHAT DEJA VU LOOK AND RECALLS STEPHENS-MUSTAPHA FEUDING IN MID-60'S. IF MUSTAPHA MANAGES TO KEEP WHAT IS LEFT OF USNO TOGETHER, THE STATE ELECTIONS WILL BE CRITICAL FOR HIS POLITICAL FUTURE AS BERJAYA WILL BE A VERY STRONG CHALLENGER. ALL OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S CARDS IN THE SABAH POLITICAL GAME HAVE NOT YET BEEN PLAYED, AND IT MAY YET BE POSSIBLE THAT PRIME MINISTER RAZAK WILL TAKE BERJAYA INTO THE NATIONAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 KUALA 04170 170854Z

FRONT, OUSTING MUSTAPHA COMPLETELY.
DILLON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SABAH, OPPOSITION PARTIES, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUALA04170
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750247-0076
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750752/aaaabucj.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 KUALA LUMPUR 4070
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SABAH OPPOSITION PARTY FORMED
TAGS: PINT, MY, BERJAYA, (HARRIS SALLEH), (GHANI GILONG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006